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Press Release

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FEDERAL SCHOOL OF NURSING AWARDS MASTER'S DEGREES

BETHESDA, Md. – The Uniformed Services University's Graduate School of Nursing awarded master of science in nursing degrees to 17 active-duty officers at USU's 22nd commencement May 19 at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Receiving degrees from the school's family nurse practitioner program were Capt. Lauren Aase, U.S. Air Force; Capt. Susan M. Alexander, USAF; Lt. James A. Blankenship, U.S. Public Health Service; Maj. Jen-Jen Chen, USAF; Capt. John R. Himberger, USAF; Lt. Cynthia Kuehner, U.S. Navy; Capt. Susan J. Lee, USAF; Lt. Brian McDonough, USPHS; Maj. Jody D. Miller, USAF; Maj. Marguerite T. Mitchell, USAF; Capt. Beverly Morgan, U.S. Army; Capt. Wendy L. Murray, USAF; Lt. Cmdr. Susan Orsega, USPHS; Maj. Kimberly M. Shanks, USAF; Maj. Cherri L. Shireman, USAF; Capt. Steven Studzinski, USA; and Capt. Annata Sullivan, USAF.

Receiving awards were Captain Shanks (Outstanding Student Award), Lt. Col. Richard Ricciardi, USA (Uniformed Faculty Award) and Susanne Gibbons, RN (Civilian Faculty Award).

Fifteen students in the GSN's nurse anesthesia program also were recognized at graduation. They will complete their master's degree requirements this fall. They are Capt. Francisco Delahoz, USA; Capt. Rachael Fontanilla, USAF; Maj. Ruth Gibaut, USAF; Capt. Gregory Hann, USA; Capt. Virginia Johnson, USAF; Capt. Geoffrey Kuzmich, USAF; Capt. Curtis Mathsen, USAF; Capt. Mary Frances Mullins, USAF; Capt. Tori E. Pearce, USAF; Capt. Mikel Phillips, USAF; Capt. Lisandra Rojas-Morris, USAF; Lt. Col. Kenneth Remington, USAF; Capt. Renee D. Sale, USAF; Capt. Robert C. Smith, USAF; and Lt. Teresita Young, USN.

Created in 1993, USU's Graduate School of Nursing is fully accredited by the National League for Nursing. Academic emphasis is placed on advanced nursing practice, theory, role, research and the basic sciences.

Established by Congress in 1972, the Uniformed Services University has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. It has provided the country with more than 3,000 outstanding military and public health physicians, scientists and health care practitioners. USU specializes in military medicine, which differs greatly from civilian medicine, and involves prevention, diagnosis and treatment by medical personnel who are integral to the military operations they support. Military medicine requires a solid background in tropical medicine and hygiene, parasitology and a full understanding of epidemiological methods and preventive medicine.